Continuation of Crop Insurance Scheme

1791 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1989 and state whether the Crop Insureance Scheme would be continued in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): The continuance of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

Wharfage/Demurrage paid by NCCF

1792 SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA. Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to replies to Starred Question 404, Unstarred Questions 3276 and 1840 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1987, 25th March, 1988 and 25th November, 1988 respectively and state:

(a) whether the examination of the case has since been completed, if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Statutory Auditors in their report of 1987-88 have pointed out that NCCF incurred trading loss of Rs. 4 lacs on failure to fulfil the contract by the Handling Agent, if so, whether the amount has been recovered from the Handling Agent as per the contract and if not, whether responsibilites of guilty officers has been fixed; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the report of the Auditors, NCCF is likely to incur further loss of Rs 9 lacs in addition to the losses already suffered on payment of demurrage etc., if so, what action has been taken to recover the losses from the Officers responsible for the irregularities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA). (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir The NCCF have reported that the matter has been taken up by them with the Handling Agent for effecting recoveries The actual loss could be determined only when the stock of coal is disposed off in full. There is no irregularity established so far for which any officer could be held responsible.

Package to give a fill up to the Commercial Refrigeration Industry

1793. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Processing Ministry is working out a package to give a fill up to the Commercial Refrigeration Industry;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Integrated policy on oilseeds

1794 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government had approved the integrated

policy on oilseeds production, import, distribution and pricing,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it will be helpful, and

(d) what are the buffer stock of oilseeds to be planned under the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has accepted an integrated policy on oilseed production, import, distribution and pricing in order to accelerate self-reliance in edible oil.

(b) The five elements of the Integrated Policy are as under:

(i) Support to farmers with technology, inputs, extension services and credit to increase oilseed production;

(ii) Raising the price of imported oil distributed through the Public Distribution System in a phased manner, in order that this is not less than prices derived from the support prices for oilseeds;

(iii) Prescription of a price band for wholesale price of edible oils, which will be fair both to the consumers and the producers,

(iv) Buffer stocking operation by NDDB, with domestically produced and imported stocks, to maintain prices within the prescribed price band, and

(v) Creation of high level "Empowered Committee" to supervise the implementation of Integrated Policy.

(c) Some elements of this policy have been under implementation during the last year and have largely contributed to an anticipated record level of production, 155 lakh MT in 1988-89. The Integrated Policy should result in achieving self-reliance in the shortest possible time.

(d) The size and composition of the buffer stock will very from year to year depending upon the level of production and anticipated demand.

Foreign currency loan to Salem Steel Plant

1795. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign currency loan has been given by State Bank of India to Salem Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, quantum of the loan and details of its proposed utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) State Bank of India have signed an agreement with Steel Authority of India Ltd. to provide a foreign currency loan to the extent of Yen 1.612 billion through its overseas office at Hong Kong. This loan will be used for the import of plant and machinery for erection and commissioning of the 2nd Sendzimer Mill at Salem Steel Plant.

Production of pulses

1796. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses during this year is likely to create a record;

(b) if so, the details thereof;